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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Partial Answer to

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SOVIET ARMY SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION

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Partial Answer to [REDACTED]**SOVIET ARMY SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION****A. SUPPLY****1. Supply Organizations****a. Deputy CO for Rear Services**

On the regimental staff was a major who was the Deputy CO for Rear Services.² As far as source was able to determine, this officer was responsible for supplying the regiment with food, individual clothing and certain items of individual equipment. He was also responsible for the operation of certain repair facilities and services. Such repair facilities included the Clothing Repair Shop and the Shoe Repair Shop. The services included the officers' mess, the enlisted mens' mess, a shower point, a billeting section, a food and forage section, a clothing and equipment section, a pigsty, the Merchandise PX and the Food Products PX.

Two officers and their respective sections directly subordinate to the Deputy CO for Rear Services helped accomplish his mission. These officers were the Chief of Food and Forage, and the Chief of Clothing and equipment. Each of these officers was responsible for his respective section functions, including Supply, Resupply and Storage.

To operate the Food and Forage Section, the Clothing and Equipment Section, and the other facilities and services mentioned above, the Deputy CO for Rear Services had at his disposal the Regimental Housekeeping Platoon. This unit consisted of about 60 men.

b. Chief of Communications

Source was quite certain that the regimental Chief of Communication was responsible for the supply and resupply of the regiment with all signal items. This officer also did all the necessary paper work for requisitioning signal items. The signal company was responsible for making the pickups of and storing and distributing the signal items in the regiment. These were picked up at the division signal battalion in Sankt Poelten (N-48 12, E-15 37). Sometimes the regimental mail truck obtained signal items while on its run to pick up the mail.

The signal company had a small signal storeroom where both its own signal property and a negligible supply of signal equipment, which was in turn issued to the regimental units, were kept. Usually signal equipment was issued just as soon as it was received. The only supply kept on hand were a few radio batteries, radio tubes, and paint for regimental radio supply. These items seemed to be furnished on the basis of an automatic resupply, but source did not know the quantities involved. All other signal equipment had to be requisitioned as needed.

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The Chief of Communications also had a fund which he used to make purchases of unknown signal items on the Austrian economy, when such items were not available through signal supply channels.

c. Other Chiefs of Services

Source believed that the other regimental chiefs of services were responsible for the supply of items peculiar to their own particular service. The Deputy CO for Technical Services, he believed, was responsible for the supply, storage, distribution and requisition of all automotive equipment (including POL items) needed in the regiment. The Chief of Engineer Services was responsible for the supply, storage, distribution and requisitioning of all engineer items in the regiment. The Chief of Chemical Service was responsible for the supply of all chemical items in the regiment. Source was quite certain that the Deputy CO for Rear Services was not responsible for the supply operations of the above named chiefs. He was not sure who was responsible for ordnance supply of weapons but believed that this was the responsibility of the Regimental Chief of Artillery. He did not know who was responsible for the supply and storage of ammunition.

d. Supply at Lower Echelons

At rifle battalion level, a housekeeping platoon, organic to each rifle battalion, was responsible for all battalion supply operations. Source had no further information on this platoon.

Each company or other separate unit had a small unit storeroom. The unit first sergeant, usually aided by a private, handled all unit supply functions and was the go-between between the company and any of the supply services at regimental level.

[redacted] the storeroom contained a few sets of uniforms, boots, and other clothing items which were issued to company personnel in the event a particular item was damaged or worn out to tide them over until regular replacement issue periods. It also contained a tent-poncho for each man, protective chemical socks and capes for each man and six or seven 10-man tents. Soldiers' personal clothing and items not kept in the barracks were also kept in the storeroom, as well as odds and ends of company cleaning equipment. There were no other items kept in the storeroom. None of the EM in the regiment had any steel helmets either with them or in the company storeroom. These were kept in the regimental clothing and equipment warehouse.

2. Supply of Individual Equipment

a. Initial issues

When source arrived [redacted] from the USSR, he had the following items in his possession: canvas-topped boots; one complete uniform consisting of trousers, a tunic, an imitation fur hat, winter underwear and footwrappings and a double-breasted shortcoat and a spoon. Upon arrival he was issued the following items: a PPsh SMG (which he later changed for a 7.62 mm M1944 carbine, which was still later exchanged for a 7.62 mm SKS carbine, a

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Shlem-1 gas mask, an overcoat with infantryman's shoulderboards, a meat can, a canteen with cover, a carry-all bag, a shovel-type entrenching tool, two belts (one for trousers and one for cartridge belt), a blanket, a pillowcase, a mattress cover, two pillow slips, two bed sheets and a towel.

Source was issued a second uniform after being in service six months. His first uniform then became a work uniform.

There were no seasonal changes of uniform as such. During the winter period the EM were issued an imitation-fur hat, heavy winter underwear, footwrappings and gloves. These items were added to the regular uniform and were exchanged at the end of the cold period for an overseas cap, summer underwear and footwrappings. During the winter period the double-breasted shortcoat served as the outer garment.

50X1 [] source was issued still a third uniform which served as the dress uniform. This consisted of a service cap, an OD single-breasted jacket (mundir) and OD trousers. It was rumored that all troops outside the USSR were to be issued in the near future a new broadcloth everyday uniform. Source had no further information on this subject, however. The issue and turn-in of all the above items was noted in source's service booklet.

b. Replacement Issues

Clothing items were issued at specific intervals, the old item being turned in and a new or serviceable item issued in its place. The following specific items were exchanged in this way. One tunic and one pair of trousers were exchanged every six months, shoes every eight months. Four pairs of foot wrappings were issued every year. Head gear, footwrappings and underwear were exchanged seasonally. Overcoats, double-breasted shortcoats and belts were issued to last the entire three year tour. All underwear was exchanged once a week for clean items.

If an item of individual clothing was worn out or damaged prior to the next scheduled issue period, it was turned in to the first sergeant for repair or turn in. The first sergeant would then give the soldier a worn but serviceable item to tide him over until the next issue period arrived.

c. Payment for Damaged Items

Normally the serviceman in source's company did not pay for an item if it was damaged or lost even if this resulted from his own carelessness. Source knew of only one instance when an EM had to pay for an item of individual clothing. It was common practice for the old timers in the unit to "trade" their old items of clothing for the new items that new arrivals brought with them. The Regimental CO became quite disgusted with this practice and as an object lesson he made the new recruits pay for some of the uniform items that they had traded away.

d. Issues to Demobilizing Personnel

When conscripts were demobilized they were authorized to keep one complete uniform, two sets of underwear, a pair of boots and either the overcoat or the double-breasted short coat. These items were all to be of the third category type,

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worn but serviceable. However, prior to the demobilization period, conscripts began to economize on their clothing items in order to leave the service in completely new or very slightly worn items. Unit officers always had trouble with personnel at this time since they were authorized only third category items. It was also during this period that the oldtimers traded off their old items for the new items of incoming conscripts.

e. Quilted uniforms

There were also some quilted uniforms in the regiment. These were in small quantity and were issued only to drivers. Some of the drivers had only the quilted jacket and some only the quilted trousers, but most had both the trousers and jacket.

3. Chemical and Radiological Warfare Supply Items

Each person in the regiment had a Shlem-1 gasmask, protective socks and a protective cape. All were of the conventional type. The gasmasks were kept with the individual but the socks and cape were held in unit storerooms and issued out only as needed for training. No one had any individual chemical anti-gas packets.

There was a conglomeration of other chemical equipment items in the regimental chemical storeroom which was maintained by the Regimental Chemical Platoon. Some of these items included two types of anti-gas suits, one type being rubberized and the other being of impregnated cloth. There were also unknown type gas detection kits and an unknown type of instrument which was allegedly used for measuring "Roentgen" rays. Source described this instrument as being a 20 x 20 x 20 cm wooden box, having a volt meter dial, a "Roentgen" dial graduated up to 1,000 Roentgens, and a dial switch. This instrument was operated from a battery. Source could give no other information on any of this equipment.

It was rumored that a new type of gasmask, which utilized a new type of canister, was to be issued soon to all Soviet troops. Source had no further information on this item, however.

4. Warehouses and Storage Areas

Source did not know exactly where any of the warehouses supplying his regiment were located. He only knew vaguely that signal items were resupplied by the division signal battalion located in Sankt Poelten. He believed all rations had been brought in from Hungary since reparations from Germany had been cancelled.

Storage facilities in the regimental area included the following installations:

- a. The Clothing and Equipment Warehouse handled current supplies of clothing and equipment. Types and quantities handled there were unknown to source.
- b. The Food and Forage Warehouse contained all rations of the regiment. Quantities and types were unknown to source. This section also had two underground storage areas containing a year's supply of cabbage and potatoes. Officers not messing at the officers' mess were authorized to pick up rations at

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this warehouse, and EM going on leave to the USSR also picked up rations here for their trip. Unknown quantities of emergency rations were stored. This warehouse was also responsible for running a pigsty of about 50 head. These animals were slaughtered to augment rations.

- c. The chemical storeroom was operated by the Regimental Chemical Platoon. See section 3 for other details.
- d. The weapons storeroom occupied a portion of the Clothing and Equipment Warehouse. Unknown types and quantities of crated small arms and weapons were stored there.
- e. The POL storage point consisted of two unknown-capacity gasoline storage tanks located within the regimental area. Both tanks were permanently embedded under the ground at the gasoline distribution point. Also in the same vicinity were two ZIS-150 gasoline tank trucks which were used to fill the underground tanks once annually, hauling gasoline from the Mauer Oehling (N-48 06, E-14 48) railroad station from railroad POL cars coming from an unknown point of origin.
- f. Ammunition and explosives were stored in two separate areas. One was a guarded large underground storage area beneath the buildings housing the Food and Forage Warehouse and the Clothing and Equipment Warehouse. This underground area had not been used until early 1955, when about three freight car loads of ammunition for larger regimental weapons were stored here. The second area, which was the regiment's regular ammunition dump, was located in the woods a few hundred yards from the caserne area. This dump consisted of four to six permanent-type, partially submerged bunkers. It was surrounded by a guarded double barb wire fence. The amount of ammunition stored here was unknown to source.

In early 1955, five freight car loads of ammunition (small arms, larger caliber, and anti-tank mines) were shipped from Sankt Poelten to Mauer Oehling and were stored in both of the dumps described above. This was a one-time shipment.

Each of the regimental units had some small arms ammunition in its own area. In source's company this emergency supply consisted of 30 disks of 30 rounds each for the Kalashnikov SMG and 3,000 rounds for the SKS carbine.⁴

5. Regimental Repair Facilities and Services

The shoe repair and clothing repair shops were together, with three men from the housekeeping platoon assigned to them. They were responsible for making what repairs they could to regimental personnel clothing and footgear items.

The Artillery Repair Shop was presumably the responsibility of the regimental Chief of Artillery. Here were five EM. There were two lathes and other unknown tools. This section had the responsibility of making unknown types of repairs on all regimental weapons from the pistol to the 85 mm anti-tank gun. Gas masks were also repaired here. Source noted that occasionally personnel from this section even made repairs on the armament of the regimental SP guns.

The Automotive Repair Shop was manned by three automotive mechanics headed by a major. The extent of its repair capabilities was unknown to source, and he did not know where

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the regiment sent vehicles for major overhauls and repairs. He presumed that such repairs were done at Krems (N-48 24, E-15 36) where the Division auto repair shops were located.

Source did not know where the regimental SP guns were sent for repair. He noted that the personnel of the SP battery did a certain amount of repair work themselves on their SP guns.

Concerning the Signal Repair Shops, source stated that in his company, there was a three-man radio repair section⁶ responsible for repair of all regimental signal equipment.

There were no laundry facilities within the regiment. Laundry items were sent out to an Austrian laundry just outside the regimental caserne area. Enlisted mens' bedding and underwear were exchanged once a week when EM were marched to their baths. Mattresses and pillow cases were filled with clean straw from time to time.

There were no bakery facilities in the regimental caserne. The regiment drew its bakery items from a Soviet Army bakery in Ulmerfeld (N-48 04, E-14 49). This bakery also supplied Soviet units in Amstetten (N-48 07, E-14 52) and units on the demarcation line. The bakery was staffed and operated by four men from the Housekeeping Platoon of Source's regiment.

The Billeting Section was operated by one or two men from the Housekeeping Platoon. This section was responsible for all large items of caserne, camp and station property such as beds, tables and chairs and for a coal and wood fuel yard.

6. Post Exchanges

There were two regimental post exchanges, a food products exchange and a merchandise exchange. Only food and liquor were sold in the food products exchange. All Soviet personnel could make purchases here, except that conscripts could not buy intoxicants. It was mostly utilized by dependent wives of the regimental officers.

The merchandise exchange was stocked most heavily with Italian, German and Austrian goods, but there were also some English goods. Very few items were of Soviet manufacture, these being mostly military items. Some general prices were: yard goods, 200 Schillings; a leather jacket, 1,000 Schillings; a silk shirt, 80 Schillings; leather boots, 200 Schillings; shoes, 150 Schillings; small rugs, 200 Schillings and bed spreads, 125 Schillings. All sales were in Austrian Schillings.

Rugs, bedspreads, yard goods and certain other items were in great demand, since these items were avidly bought up and sent to the USSR for resale. For example, a 200 Schilling rug was sold in the USSR for 1,000 to 2,000 Rubles and yard goods purchased in Austria for 200 Schillings a meter were sold in the USSR for at least 1,000 Rubles a meter. Everybody from the lowest private to the regimental CO speculated on this and source stated that many Soviet military personnel were getting "filthy rich" on this trade. Regimental personnel were having watches and cameras sent from the USSR to Austria, the watches costing

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about 1,000 Rubles and the cameras about 1,500 Rubles. In Austria the watches were sold for about 800 Schillings and the cameras for about 600 to 800 Schillings. The traders could then buy three to four rugs for these Schillings. The EM were bitter at the regimental officers because they were able to send rugs and other goods by mail each month and further enrich themselves. EM were forbidden to do this. However, almost every enlisted man returning to the USSR normally took three to four rugs with him for resale on the black market in the Soviet Union.

7. Pay Scales

a. Conscripts

Conscripts of the rank of private received 40 Schillings monthly and PFC's 50 Schillings. Sergeants and jr sergeants received 50 Schillings a month plus 75 Rubles credited to their account in the USSR; sr sergeants received 75 Schillings a month plus 120 Rubles credited to their account in the USSR. All were paid according to the rank called for in the T/O slot occupied; thus a sergeant occupying a private's slot would receive a private's pay.

b. Reenlistees

Reenlistees received from 800 to 1,000 Schillings and 500 to 700 Rubles credited to their accounts. Source had no further information on their pay scales.

c. Officers

It was rumored that the regimental CO received about 4,000 Schillings. Source had no information on officers' pay scales.

8. Food

Source's regiment had two mess halls, one for officers and a separate one for EM. Reenlistees could eat in the officers' mess if they wished to. Both officers and EM received the same basic ration, but officers supplemented their ration by purchases on the economy and in the regimental food products exchange.

The average daily ration was as follows:

<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Dinner</u>	<u>Supper</u>
100 g of potatoes or Kasha (gruel)	Vegetable or cabbage soup	Soup or Kasha
50 g of meat	150 g of meat	Tea
Tea	300 g of bread	15 g of sugar
15 g of sugar		200 g of bread
300 g of bread		

The greatest portion of the daily ration thus consisted of bread. In the winter the bread ration was 900 grams, in the summer 800 grams.

On holidays or during inspections by higher headquarters, more meat was given or pork was served to increase variety. Macaroni

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was served about once a week, rice about three times a year. Pork was served about three times a year. There was never any milk, coffee or eggs.

Source stated that food was in ample quantities, but soldiers in their first year of service tended to be hungry until they became accustomed to the ration.

B. REGIMENTAL INSIGNIA

For the most part, both officer and enlisted regimental personnel wore infantry shoulderboards, even though certain regimental personnel were of the signal, chemical, transport, medical, musicians and other branches of service. The only exceptions were as follows:

Both officers and enlisted personnel of the Regimental SP Btry wore armored forces shoulderboards on the armored forces double breasted, roll-type collar jacket. A tank emblem was affixed to the shoulderboards.

Medical officers in the regiment wore the conventional medical services officers' shoulderboards with medical insignia. Medical enlisted personnel, however, wore the infantry shoulderboard with medical insignia.

Most of the regimental staff officers wore officers' infantry shoulderboards, but there were instances of certain officers wearing another type shoulderboard. For example, the regimental finance officer wore the narrow silver administrative shoulderboard with the intendant service's emblem. Some officers of the regimental staff had been transferred to it from other branches of service such as armored forces, and they continued to wear the shoulderboards of their previous branches. Staff officers of the regiment who were chiefs of services such as signal, engineer and transport wore the emblem of their particular branch on their infantry shoulderboards.

With the exceptions noted above, the remainder of the personnel wore infantry shoulderboards. However, there was some distinction between the various sub-units in that different types of emblems were worn on the shoulderboards of their personnel. All the regimental artillery units, with the exception of the Regimental SP Btry, wore the artillery emblem. Signal company personnel wore the signal emblem, Engineer company personnel the engineer emblem, Transport company personnel the transport emblem, AA Battalion personnel the artillery emblem, Music Platoon personnel the band emblem and Medical Section personnel the medical emblem. The remaining personnel wore no emblems.

C. TRANSPORTATION 5

1. Motor and Horse-drawn Vehicles

In addition to the regimental motor vehicles there were two horses and carts for hauling odds and ends about the regimental caserne.⁵ Concerning horse-drawn units in general, source had heard from other recruits that they had taken basic training with an unidentified cavalry unit in Stanislav, the USSR. Source had also taken basic training in Stanislav but did not know exactly where this alleged unit was located.

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2. Driver Training

Source knew that there was a Drivers' School at division level, but had no further information on it. All officers of the regiment were supposed to know how to drive vehicles. Very infrequent driver training classes were given to the officers by the regimental transport company. These classes were seldom held because gasoline was always in short ration. Source recalled that during the fall of 1954, fuel was so short that for two months few of the regimental vehicles were used at all.

3. Storage and Servicing of Line Vehicles

All of the regimental line vehicles were stored except when used for any long-distance movements to the field. When training was conducted in the vicinity of the regimental caserne, the line vehicles seldom left the storage area.

These vehicles were kept on blocks, with batteries unhooked and fully gassed and serviced, in the regimental park. It was only necessary to hook the battery and knock the vehicle off the blocks, and the vehicle was ready for operation. It required only 15 minutes at the most to do this. Normally the regiment required about 2½ hours to move out of the caserne as a unit, in vehicles.

1. [redacted] for an organizational chart of the Regimental Staff, including the supply components of same.
2. [redacted] (personalities) for source's knowledge of officers mentioned by title in this report.
3. [redacted] Comment: Because of the imminent withdrawal of Soviet military forces from Austria, no pinpoint locations of these installations were executed.
4. [redacted] for source's information on the weapons of these two types in his unit.
5. [redacted] for source's information on types and numbers of regimental vehicles.
6. [redacted] for source's knowledge of unit radio repair organization, personnel and procedures.
7. [redacted] Comment: None of these items were listed in source's service booklet, and he had no knowledge on their status. However, it is assumed that they were organizational items of equipment.
8. [redacted] for source's knowledge of types of radio equipment in his unit.

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